

REMARKS

The Examiner has objected to the abstract of the current application. As the Examiner has kindly pointed out, the term, "said" has been changed to "the" in the abstract. Accordingly, the objection should be withdrawn.

The Examiner has allowed claims 3 through 9. In addition, the Examiner has indicated allowable subject matter in claim 2 if rewritten in independent form while objecting to the same claim for being dependent upon a rejected claim. Although the Examiner kindly indicated the allowable subject matter limitation in claim 2, the Applicant opted for amending the rejected claims without incorporating the allowable subject matter in the current amendment.

The Examiner has rejected to claims 1, 10 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by the Morkel reference. The Examiner has generally rejected independent claims 1, 10 and 11 together despite different element among these independent claims. In particular, the Examiner has pointed out in FIGURE 1 of the Morkel reference that the clock extract 16 anticipates "a clock generation unit" as explicitly recited in claim 1, 10 and 11. Although the Applicants do not concede that other elements of the allegedly rejected claims have been anticipated by the Morkel reference under §102(e), the following distinction focuses upon the "clock generation unit" as explicitly recited in claim 1, 10 and 11.

Newly amended independent claims 1 and 10 now explicitly recite "a clock generation unit . . . for automatically identifying one of at least two predetermined signal transmission modes . . . and generating phase-synchronized clock signals with a specified frequency that matches the identified signal transmission mode." Similarly, newly amended independent claim 11 also explicitly recites "a clock generator circuit . . . for automatically identifying one of at least two predetermined signal transmission modes for the electrical digital signals... and generating phase-synchronized clock signals of a

specified frequency that matches the identified signal transmission mode.” All of the newly amended independent claims now explicitly recite “automatically identifying one of at least two predetermined signal transmission modes” and “generating phase-synchronized clock signals” according to the “the identified transmission mode.”

In contrast, the Morkel reference discloses a regenerator in an optical network for the 3R processing. The 3R processing is undertaken with a clock extract element 16 or typically a phase locked loop (PLL) circuit in combination with a D-type flip/flop circuit 18. Based upon the known techniques, the clock extract element 16 determines the frequency of the recovered signal and generates a clock signal at that frequency. (see lines 28 through 34 in column 4).

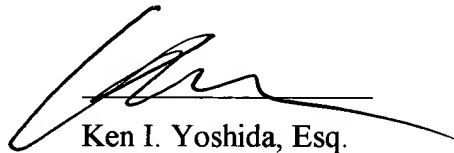
The Morkel reference is limited to the straight 3R regeneration. The cited reference fails to anticipate the identification of “one of at least two predetermined signal transmission modes” for the purpose of performing the 3R processing as explicitly recited in newly amended independent claims 1, 10 and 11. In addition, the Morkel reference fails to anticipate the generation of “phase-synchronized clock signals with a specified frequency” according to “the identified signal transmission mode” as explicitly recited in newly amended independent claims 1, 10 and 11. Claim 2 depends from newly amended independent claim 1 and incorporates the above patentable features of newly amended claim 1. Because of the above patentably distinct features and the dependency, the Applicants respectfully submit to the Examiner that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) should be withdrawn.

The above claim amendments have been supported by the original disclosures of the current application. For example, the disclosures at lines 13 through 31 on page 7 and lines 1 through 2 on page 8 support the amended claim language. Thus, no new matter has been introduced to the current application.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and the foregoing remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request a favorable Office Action so indicating.

Respectfully submitted,



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